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**GUIDELINES FOR GEOLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS OF
NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS IN CALIFORNIA**

(70 pages)

edited by

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BACKGROUND: California has experienced a rising concern over potential public exposure to naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) in recent years. Consequently, geologists in California are increasingly called upon to evaluate the NOA potential of property prior to land-use decisions, land acquisition, or property development. As new NOA regulations are enacted which affect activities such as excavation and grading in areas where NOA may be present, geologic information will be an important component of the regulatory decision-making process. Geologic information may also be useful in designing site development to avoid potential long term exposure to NOA, or in developing monitoring or mitigation plans to minimize potential short term NOA exposures during construction activities.

The California Geological Survey has developed these guidelines with the assistance of a committee of volunteers with expertise in the various fields related to the geologic investigation of NOA. The committee included geologists/mineralogists with in-depth knowledge of California geology, the mineralogy and petrology of serpentinites and ultramafic rocks, asbestos mineralogy, and the occurrence of asbestos. The committee also included a geostatistician, a soil scientist, an environmental scientist, an environmental engineer, and an industrial hygienist. The process of writing and producing the guidelines has been facilitated by a contract with the University of California, Davis. Numerous geologists and other scientists in consulting, industry and regulatory agencies reviewed a draft of the guidelines.

SUMMARY: These guidelines have been developed as a starting point for geologists involved in conducting or reviewing NOA investigations. The purpose, scope, and methods of investigation used in evaluating NOA will vary depending on conditions at specific sites and the nature of the proposed project or development. A geologist may be called upon to assess the potential for NOA at sites having widely varying degrees of development, disturbance, and prior geologic observation. The guidelines describe general procedures for use by geologists to conduct site investigations for NOA. The guidelines discuss a scope of work and suggest a format for reports.

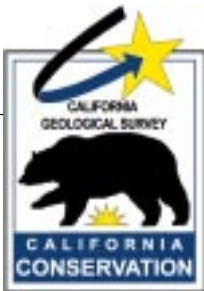
The guidelines are intended for use by geologists performing or reviewing NOA investigations and are not intended to provide guidance to the lay person in evaluating or interpreting geologic reports on NOA. These guidelines are informational in nature and are not regulations. The guidelines have no force of law and do not set standards of practice.

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